

I351.84  
I29s2b  
1999  
c.3

43565230

# AABD

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS-URBANA



3 0112 116649911

## Aid to the Aged, Blind or Disabled

ILLINOIS DOCUMENTS

JUL 16 1958

ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY



## How do I apply for AABD?

You can apply for AABD at your local Department of Human Services (DHS) office. A DHS caseworker will ask you questions and enter your answers into a computer. When your caseworker is finished asking you questions, he or she will give you a computer print-out with your answers on it and ask you to sign it. This is your application for AABD.

If you do not know where your local DHS office is, call the telephone number on the back of this brochure. A Human Services representative will give you the address and telephone number of the office closest to where you live. If you are physically unable to go to your local DHS office, a caseworker will call you on the telephone to interview you and help you apply for AABD.

## Who is eligible?

You may be able to get help from AABD if you:

- Are a United States citizen or meet certain requirements for non-citizens (your caseworker can explain the requirements for non-citizens)
- Live in Illinois
- Do not get money or benefits from any other Human Services assistance programs
- Are 65 years or older, blind or disabled.

If you get money from other sources such as the federal Supplemental Security Income Program known as SSI, you may still be eligible for AABD.

## Applying for AABD

When you apply for AABD, your caseworker will ask to see:

- Your birth certificate
- Your Social Security number
- Paycheck stubs
- Rent receipts
- Checking and savings accounts records.

Your caseworker will ask to see records or papers about all of your assets. (Your assets are your money and the things you own.) Your caseworker will also ask to see records of any money you receive from insurance, pensions and other sources.

If you need help getting some of this information, your caseworker will help you. This information will help your caseworker understand your family situation better and figure out how much money you have.

When deciding on your eligibility for AABD, the department may exempt (not count) certain assets such as \$2,000 for an individual or \$3,000 for a couple.

When determining eligibility for AABD, the department will also exempt (not count):

- Burial space such as a crypt, casket, vault, marker, lot or opening/closing the grave; and
- Funds of up to \$1,500 saved for burial, cremation or funeral expenses.

However, there is a limit to how many assets you can have and still receive help from AABD.

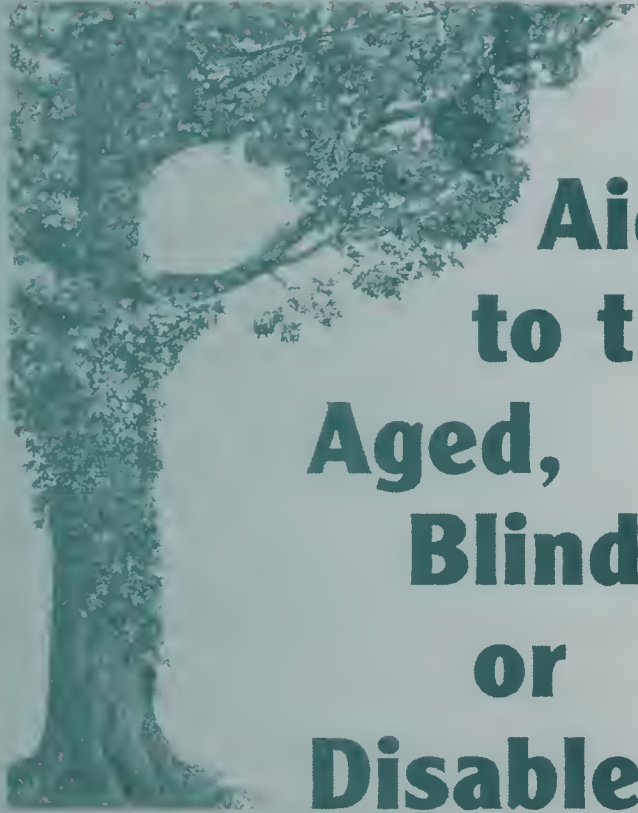


# **What does the Department of Human Services do about liens and estates?**

The Department of Human Services has the legal right to recover the amount of assistance persons receive through the AABD program. The department can file a lien on any real property you own and a claim against your estate or the estate of your deceased spouse. The department will seek to recover money equal to the amount of AABD assistance you received. For more information on liens and claims, get the brochure called "Property Liens and Estate Claims" from your local Department of Human Services office.



# AABD



## **Aid to the Aged, Blind or Disabled**

The Aid to the Aged,  
Blind or Disabled (AABD)  
program is available  
through the Illinois  
Department of Human Services.  
The program is for people  
who are elderly, blind or  
have a disability and  
need money and  
medical care to  
help take care of  
themselves.

## **If your AABD application is approved...**

The Department of Human Services will review your application for AABD and all the information you give your caseworker. This may take up to 45 days if you are aged or blind, and up to 60 days if you are disabled. If your application is approved, you will receive money each month from the Department of Human Services.

If you are homeless, you can still receive AABD benefits. If you are eligible and approved, the Department of Human Services will make sure you get your benefits.

At least once every year, your caseworker will ask you questions about where you live and the money you get from other sources. This will help keep your records correct and make sure you are still eligible for AABD and are receiving the right amount of benefits.

## **If your AABD application is turned down...**

If your application is turned down, you can appeal in writing and ask for a hearing. At the hearing, you can explain why you think your application should be approved.

For more information about your right to appeal and receive a fair hearing, ask your caseworker or call the toll-free telephone number listed on the back of this brochure.



## To stay eligible for AABD, you must:

- **Tell the Department of Human Services when you move.**

You must let your caseworker know when you move so your cash benefits, MediPlan card and other important information can be sent to your new address. If you are homeless, tell your caseworker how you can be reached. If your caseworker cannot find you, your benefits will stop.

- **Tell your caseworker if you do not get the right amount of money.**

Your caseworker will tell you how much AABD money you should get each month. If you get cash benefits that are too much, you must pay back the extra money to the Department of Human Services. If you do not pay the money back, the department may take legal steps to get the money.

If, however, you get cash benefits for an amount that is less than you are supposed to get, the Department of Human Services will send you the additional money you should have gotten.

- **Keep your appointments.**

You must try to keep all your appointments with your caseworker. If you cannot keep an appointment, be sure to tell your caseworker as soon as possible.

- **Report changes in your family situation, income and assets.**

You must tell your caseworker within five working days if there are any changes in your family situation, the money you receive (income) or the things you own (assets). A change may affect your eligibility for AABD or the amount of money you receive.

The law states that you must tell the Department of Human Services the truth about your family situation, income or assets so that you don't get more money than you are supposed to get. You may face penalties if you break this law or help others to break it.

# What are the benefits under AABD?

## ● Monthly Cash Benefits

The amount of money you get each month is based on your expenses and income. First the Department of Human Services caseworker adds up the cost of your basic expenses, such as rent and utilities. Your expenses may also include special food for a medically-supervised diet or restaurant or home-delivered meals if you do not have a kitchen or are physically unable to cook.

Then your caseworker adds up your income. If your income is less than the amount you need to pay for your basic expenses, you will receive money from AABD. The amount you receive will be the difference between the cost of your basic needs (up to a maximum cost decided by the Department of Human Services) and your income.

Your AABD cash benefit can be issued in one of two ways. Usually, the department issues the benefit electronically through the Illinois Link card. However, if you prefer to have your benefit deposited directly into your bank account, you should contact your caseworker who will help you with your request.

## ● Food Stamps

If you are eligible for AABD, you may also be eligible for food stamp benefits that will help you buy food at the grocery store.

If you need food immediately, the Department of Human Services will process your application right away and provide you with food stamp benefits within a few days if you qualify.

## ● Medical Assistance


In addition to the AABD cash benefit you get each month, you will get a medical card called the MediPlan card. This card enables you to take part in the Medical Assistance program, which gives you free health care for most medical services.

The Department of Human Services will mail your MediPlan card to your home or to a currency exchange located near you. Ask your caseworker where the card will be sent.

As part of your medical assistance benefits, you are eligible to receive family planning services. These services help you learn ways to plan how many children you want and when you want to have them.

If your application for AABD is approved, your eligibility for medical assistance usually begins the month you apply. However, you may also be eligible for medical assistance for up to three months before the month you apply.





If you have medical expenses during any of the three months before the month you apply, be sure to tell your caseworker about them so the department can decide whether the program will pay for those bills. If possible, you shouldn't pay your medical bills until you learn if you are eligible for medical assistance so the expenses can be covered by your MediPlan card.

For more information on the Medical Assistance program, ask your caseworker or call the toll-free telephone number listed on the back of this brochure.

## ● **Special Dietary Needs**

If you are on a special medical diet or need restaurant or home-delivered meals because you don't have a kitchen or are physically unable to cook, talk to your caseworker about how to apply for help.

## ● **Funeral, Burial, Cremation**

The Department of Human Services may pay funeral, burial and cremation costs when a person who received AABD dies, if responsible relatives cannot afford these expenses and the estate does not cover them. (See the brochure titled "Responsible Relatives.")

# **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**Call or visit your local Human Services office.**

If you have questions about AABD or any other Department of Human Services (DHS) program, call or visit your local DHS office. We will answer your questions. If you do not know where your local DHS office is or you are unable to go there, call:

**1-800-252-8635**

**1-800-447-6404 (TTY)**

**Illinois Department of Human Services  
Bureau of Customer Inquiry  
and Assistance**

**Monday - Friday  
(except state holidays)  
7:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

**For answers to your questions,  
you may also write:**

**Illinois Department of Human Services  
Bureau of Provider Assistance  
and Correspondence  
100 South Grand Avenue, East  
Springfield, Illinois 62762**



Programs, activities and employment opportunities in the Illinois Department of Human Services are open and accessible to any individual or group without regard to age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, ethnic origin or religion. The department is an equal opportunity employer and practices affirmative action and reasonable accommodation programs.

**DHS 587 (R-6-99\*)**

**AABD - Aid to the Aged, Blind or Disabled**

**\*Recycle previous editions**

**Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois**

**P.O. #2468; 117,500 copies**